



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009

No. 12

Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the giver of true freedom, awaken in us a new appreciation for our Nation that we may apply ourselves to keeping alive a real sense of liberty.

Thank You for our Nation's Founders, their ideals, their principles, and their sacrifices. Thank You, Lord, for the long progression of statesmen and patriots who have guarded our rights and healed our land. Thank You for the peaceful transition of power that took place in our Capitol yesterday. Lord, we also thank You for the members of the Senate staff who serve behind the scenes and work into the evening sustaining our well-being. In an hour where great issues are at stake, may those who serve on Capitol Hill rise to meet the challenges and strive to be faithful.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 21, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of HILLARY CLINTON to be Secretary of State. There will be up to 3 hours of debate equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The designee I have on this side is the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, Senator JOHN KERRY.

The Senate will recess from 12:45 until 2:15 p.m. today to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons. We tried to make it clear last night, but if we did not, for further clarification I ask unanimous consent that the time during the recess not count against the time reserved for debate on the nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, upon disposition of the Clinton nomination, the Senate will resume consideration of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and debate the pending Hutchison amendment. We hope to complete the vote on that today. I understand there are

other Senators who have amendments to offer. I ask they be ready to offer them sometime this afternoon or this evening. In addition, the managers are working on an arrangement to consider additional amendments in order to complete any action on this bill. This bill is open for amendment when we finish the Clinton nomination, so I hope people are ready to work on that.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate shall proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, of New York, to be Secretary of State.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 3 hours of debate equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nomination: HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON of New York to be Secretary of State.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that if there

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S673